



## MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

*Maryland's Social Services Agency*



### PRESS RELEASE

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## **MARYLAND LAUNCHES FIRST EVER FOSTER PARENT PTA**

*Maryland Foster Parent Association trailblazer for children in their care*

BALTIMORE – The Maryland Foster Parent Association has established the nation's first Foster Parent Teacher Association (PTA). The PTA is the largest volunteer child advocacy association in the nation. It works for children to be safe, healthy, and successful - in school and in life.

"The Maryland Foster Parent PTA will benefit by its affiliation with a 100 year-old parent group that is the nation's premier child advocacy association," said Sam Macer, Education Chair/President Elect Maryland Foster Parent Association.

Benefits and programs provided through the National and Maryland PTAs include the Arts Reflection program, allowing foster children to submit artwork for state and national recognition; the Healthy Life Styles program, that promotes healthy eating, exercise, and good mental health; and various parent involvement programs that provide assistance in navigating the educational process.

There is also a male involvement program that encourages foster fathers - and where appropriate, biological fathers - to become a part of the educational process. There are also scholarships and financial awards that foster children will be eligible to apply for through the PTA.

Foster parents will also be able to take advantage of a wide range of free training opportunities and programs to develop their leadership and advocacy skills. Parents can develop skills needed to operate a non- profit group, increase their public speaking skills, and obtain the skills needed to engage the education system.

The Maryland Foster Parent Association is supported by the Maryland Department of Human Resources, consists of resource parents representing every local jurisdiction, and provides training, information, education, and support to foster parents. For information, contact the Maryland Foster Parent Association, <http://www.mdkids1.org/>

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